

OUR·VILLAGE·VOICE

MISSOURI SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND

Volume 12, Issue 1

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Welcome Back!



Patricia L.
Yocum
Superintendent

There is a “hint” of fall in the air as we welcome back our staff and students for another great year at Missouri School for the Blind. It is wonderful to have everyone back on campus with enthusiasm for learning and ready to give the school year their best effort.

Our Mission ...

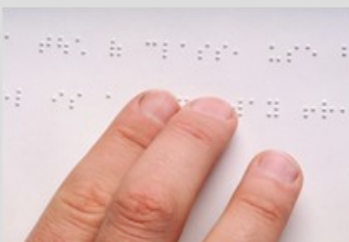
MSB continues to provide specialized instruction with short-term and regular school year placement for visually impaired children from all over Missouri. Our Outreach staff is committed to promoting and assisting districts as they provide educational services for visually impaired/blind children in local schools. MSB embraces and promotes “inclusion” and the capacity of local school districts to provide for the education of blind and visually impaired students. We believe that children and youth with visual impairment should be educated together with non-disabled peers, to the greatest extent possible, with assurance that their specific needs are addressed. We believe that special purpose schools such as MSB are part of the continuum of services which is guaranteed under IDEA for children with visual impairment. Visually impaired children have very specific instructional needs which vary with their age and developmental levels.

What’s the big deal about the Expanded Core Curriculum?

The Expanded Core Curriculum (ECC) has been taught in schools for blind and visually impaired children for decades. The ECC is specialized instruction designed to meet the “disability specific” needs of students with visual impairments. The ECC provides blind students with the foundation they must have to access and be successful with the regular core curriculum. The ECC is essential for VI/blind children to be able to achieve independence throughout their lives. Components of the ECC can be included on IEPs as pre-transition or transition goals and objectives:

- * *compensatory or functional academic skills, including communication modes*
- * *orientation and mobility*
- * *social interaction skills*
- * *independent living skills*
- * *recreation and leisure skills*
- * *career education*
- * *use of assistive technology*
- * *sensory efficiency skills*
- * *self-determination*

(Continued under “MSB’s Mission”
on page 2)



Speaker Encourages Staff to Rise Above Adversity

When John O'Leary was nine years old he was burned on 100 percent of his body. He was given less than one percent chance to live. O'Leary spent several months in the hospital, enduring numerous surgeries and the amputation of all his fingers, followed by years of therapy. But he overcame these challenges and created a successful life for himself and his family. On Monday, August 23, O'Leary shared his message of courage with the staff of Missouri School for the Blind.

O'Leary discussed five steps to overcome adversity:

- **Be Courageous** - and know what you are fighting for;
- **Be a Visionary** - when you know your "why" you can endure any "how;"
- **Be Significant** to others - encouragement matters;
- **Be Intentional** - you can't always choose your path but you can choose **how** you walk it;
- **Be Grateful**.

He emphasized that nothing can take away the pain of the past but we can learn from it and use it to help us grow in the future.



John O'Leary

MSB's Mission (continued from page 1)

With the push to "mainstream" visually impaired students in their "least restrictive environment," there is a risk they will not get the same access to extra-curricular activities as sighted peers. We urge school districts and IEP teams to carefully consider the "disability specific needs" of their visually impaired/blind students to ensure they have the skills to transition into the workforce and lead productive, independent lives.

Extra-Curricular Activities for Social Development

If you look back on your own K-12 education, no doubt extra-curricular

activities were a huge part of your experience. Life skills were learned on the playing field, basketball court, or in clubs. Confidence, team work, and tenacity helped build your character and likely improved your grades. Today, IEP teams must consider this very important aspect of the visually impaired student's development. Specifically, do mainstreamed students



nonacademic, and extra-curricular activities at the local level?

MSB offers competitive athletics through NCASB and MSHSAA:

- * Track and Field
 - * Goalball
 - * Wrestling
 - * Cheerleading
 - * Forensics
 - * Swimming
 - * Intramural Sports
- Co-Curricular Activities:
- * Braille Readers Are Leaders
 - * Braille Challenge
 - * Beta Club
 - * Horticulture Club
 - * Industrial Technology Club
 - * Music
 - * Scholar Quiz Bowl
 - * Student Council
 - * Intramural Bowling
 - * Space Camp

MSB's Academic Programs

We are proud of our academic programs at MSB! Students are placed at MSB through

the IEP process upon acceptance by the admissions team. Please see our website at www.msb.dese.mo.gov for referral information. All of our programs are tuition- and transportation-free to Missouri school districts.

K-12 Educational Programs

- * Regular school term
- * Day program (for students within the St. Louis metro area)
- * Residential program (provided when driving distance prohibits day attendance)
- * KEYS: Short-Term Placement Option (6 weeks/semester/year to address specific skills)
- * MSB LIFE: Community-Based Transition Program
- * Project Starfish: 7-12 Advisement Program for transition planning



Ellaun Williams Wins National Beta Presidency



Ellaun Williams, a senior at Missouri School for the Blind, is the new president of

the National Beta Club, the nation's largest independent educational youth organization.

He is also currently president of the Missouri Beta Club, an office he won by campaigning on an inclusive platform, entitled "Mr. Williams' Neighborhood."

Ellaun won the na-

tional presidency in Louisville, KY, this summer despite having only three classmates in the audience of 3,200 club members from the entire country. Only 10 percent were from Missouri.

His presidential duties include planning next year's national convention, visiting state con-

ventions across the country and giving keynote speeches. Williams' theme is the importance of perseverance to overcome seemingly impossible odds and reach success.

Ellaun will graduate next June and intends to pursue a career in the business end of the music industry.

HONOR ROLL 4TH QUARTER, 2009-2010

GRADES K-6

Zyshaun Cross-Williams	Sirria Kehr
Jill McBroom	Noah O'Neal
Sah'mara Perry-Luckett	Tiondra Pollard
Kiwan Sanders	Dionna Towns

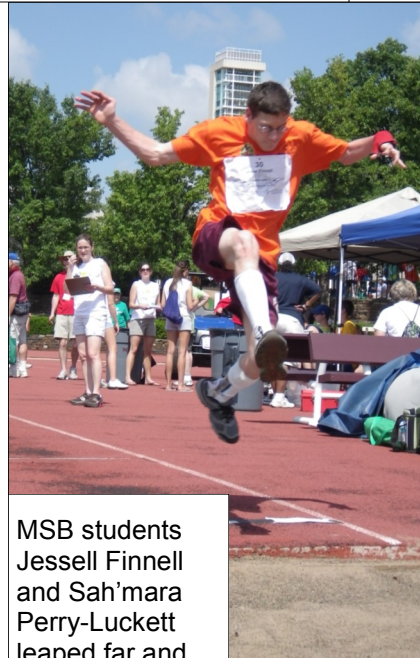
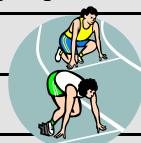
GRADES 7-12

Lauren Arnold	Amber Attaway*
Michael Babusa*	Courtney Baty*
Tyler Baty	Alecia Ceaser*
David Brown	Breck Campbell
Jesse Finnell*	Kathryn Hurd*
Tabitha Jenkins*	Carolyn McGhee*
Alex Richardson*	Skily Smith*
Aaron Wolfe*	

*Student received all A's and B's

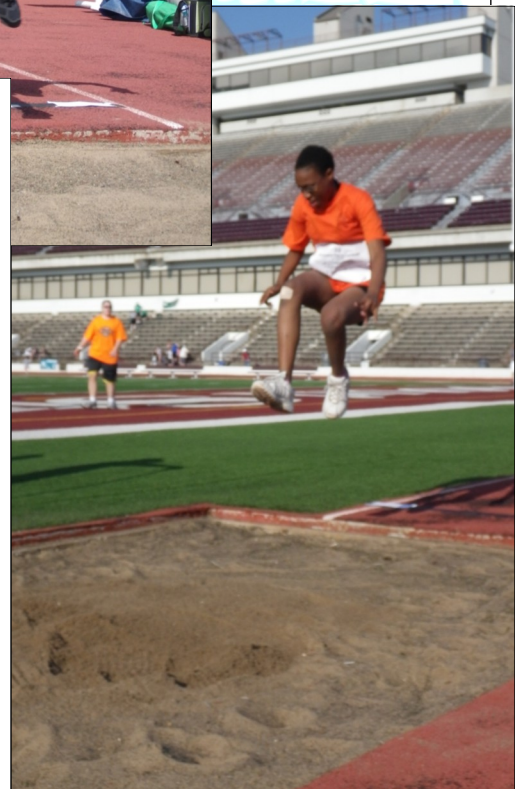
CALENDAR

Labor Day Holiday	Sept. 6
Classes Resume	Sept. 7
Track Meet at Kansas	Sept. 10-12
Constitution Day Assembly 2 p.m.	Sept. 16
Track Meet at Ohio	Sept. 17-19
Track Meet at Illinois	Sept. 23
NCASB Track Championship-Indiana	Oct. 1-3



MSB students Jessell Finnell and Sah'mara Perry-Luckett leaped far and high for medals at the Special Olympics State Summer Games last May at Missouri State University, Springfield. Teammates Courtney Baty, Tyler Baty and Khrystal Coleman joined their winning team. Coaches were David Wixom and Jenny Karnes.

High Flyers!



Welcome to MSB!

Missouri School for the Blind welcomes several new employees this year.

Joshua Beeks became MSB's Director of Business Operations on July 27. Josh is a graduate of Morehouse College, Atlanta, GA, and will complete his MBA at St. Louis University this winter. He has worked for several non-profit organizations, including the YWCA, American Red Cross and St. Patrick Center, as well as the City of University City and the U.S. Cen-



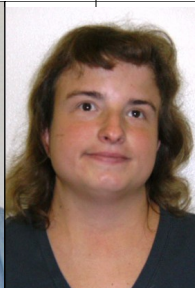
Joshua Beeks



Bernie Humphrey



Dennis Mattison



Abby Pfefferkorn



Michael Weiss

sus Bureau.

Bernie Humphrey returns to MSB as Vision Education Teacher Aide. Bernie joined MSB full time in 2004, after working in the ESY program for several years. She has more than 30 years' experience in

education and business.

Dennis Mattison joined MSB on April 29, 2010 as Maintenance Worker II. Dennis has over 25 years' experience in maintenance and mechanical work and is certified in HVAC and industrial electricity by Jefferson College.

Abby Pfefferkorn rejoins MSB this fall as Vision Education Teacher Aide. Abby is a graduate of Southeast

Missouri State, Cape Girardeau, and is pursuing her teaching certification. She was a teacher aide at MSB from January 2008-June 2010.

Michael Weiss began employment at MSB as Maintenance Worker II on March 8, 2010. Michael is a certified pipefitter and has worked in manufacturing and construction since 1993.

Welcome to MSB!

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

SEPT. 2	SHAOJUN CHEN MELISSA MOORE
SEPT. 6	LYNNIE MCELWEE
SEPT. 9	ERICA YOUNG
SEPT. 11	PRISCILLA ANDREWS
SEPT. 12	MARSHA BRYANT SUE BURLISON
SEPT. 13	JIM BAKER
SEPT. 17	LARACHEL CARSON
SEPT. 18	BERNIE HUMPHREY JONETTE PARKER
SEPT. 20	LINDA ROSS
SEPT. 21	SANDRA BAKER
SEPT. 23	OPHELIA WOOD
SEPT. 24	TONNETTE FORD FARRAH STARKS
SEPT. 26	YVONNE ALI ERIC GIVANS
SEPT. 29	LINDA HAVLIK
SEPT. 30	MARILYN CASIMERE CARL MCELVAINE

HAVE A GREAT DAY!

YEARS OF SERVICE AWARDS

30 YEARS

Kathy Chisholm Gwen Oliver

25 YEARS

Elmer Cruz Curtis Moore

20 YEARS

Mary Dingus Gloria Newman
Rickey Phelps

15 YEARS

LaRachel Carson Chris Davidson
Susan Fitzpatrick Caroline Kenny

10 YEARS

Ann Boston Jonette Parker
Mary Rice Anna Schell
Wayne Seitz Farrah Starks

5 YEARS

Alicia Roth